

EGYPT:

Our Stand on Suez

The Suez Canal dispute between Britain and Egypt was brought to a perhaps decisive turn last week. Kermit Roosevelt, grandson of Teddy and now special State Department Middle East consultant, broke the news to the Egyptians that the U.S. stands unequivocally behind the British in the protracted canal-zone negotiations. *Sam Souki, chief of NEWSWEEK's Cairo bureau, sends the following account of this far-reaching, behind-the-scenes development:*

Roosevelt frankly told Deputy Premier Abdel Nasser that the United States had definitely decided not to give any economic assistance to Egypt until an Anglo-Egyptian agreement was reached. He also told the Egyptians that the United States had gone as far as it intended in pressing Britain to make concessions and advised the Egyptians to agree to the last British proposals.

Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill had made it clear to the Americans that any further concessions on Britain's part would prejudice Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden's chances of taking over the party leadership when Sir Winston abandons his office.

In his four meetings with Abdel Nasser and two meetings with Gen. Mohammed Naguib, Roosevelt pointed out what Egypt stood to gain by prompt agreement: immediate economic help; American aid for long-range Egyptian projects; encouragement of foreign investment; strengthening of stability, and an easing of the tensions stalling some projects, including military assistance to Egypt.

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